

FIG. 1

200

204 — ABC CORP.206 — CONTAINS SENSITIVE INFORMATION

208

DESCRIPTION OF VISUAL BLUR INVENTION

This invention addresses the common problem of viewing sensitive information in a public place. Many document types, such as word processing, spreadsheets, messages, online statements, etc. may be protected through this invention.

202

A document may be caused to display all or a portion of its contents in a format that is illegible (e.g. "blurred") to an uninvited viewer. Control of blur attributes can occur in many ways and can depend upon many user-definable and/or system-definable conditions. Examples are font, style name, keyword, data type (e.g. \$), file name, cursor position, or explicit selections or sections. The degree and type of blur can be varied.

With this invention, people reading over your shoulder cannot read anything sensitive on your display.

210

BLURRING OFF

FIG. 2

10020335.121201

10020335-124204

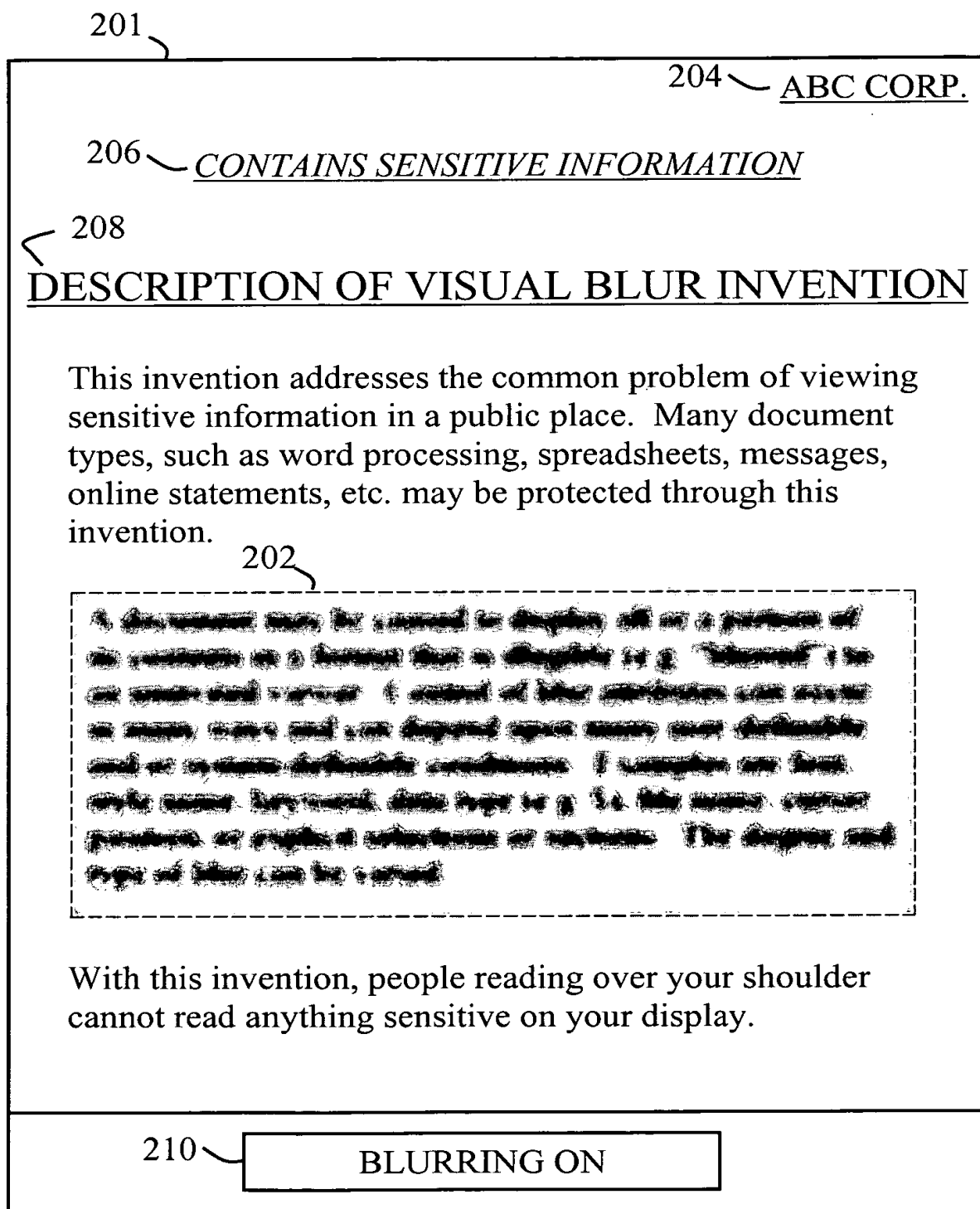


FIG. 3

10020335.121201

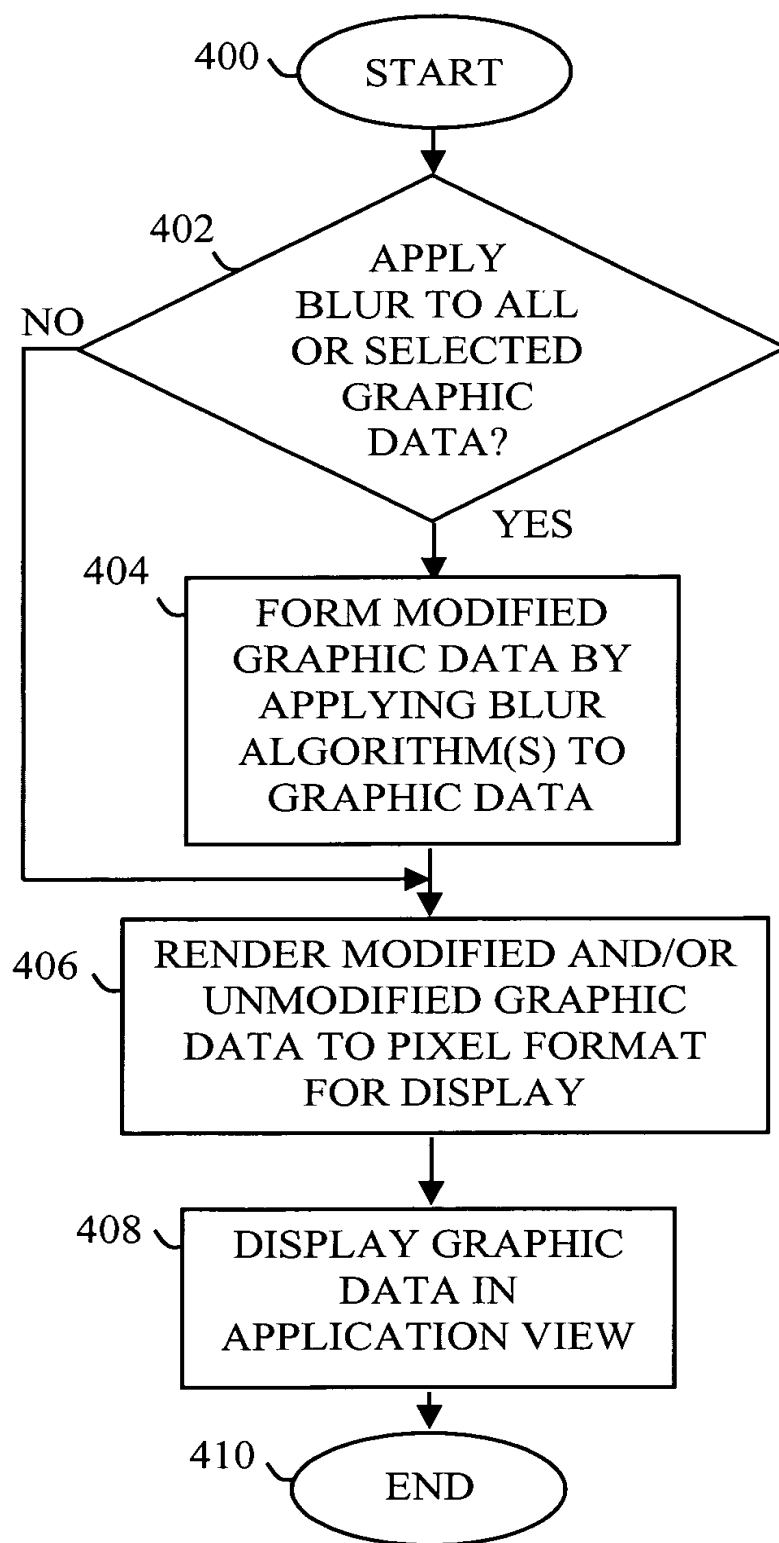


FIG. 4

500

START

FIG. 5A

502

PREPARE GRAPHIC DATA FOR DISPLAY  
ON A DISPLAY

504

MODIFY THE GRAPHIC DATA TO FORM MODIFIED  
GRAPHIC DATA

- THE GRAPHIC DATA CAN BE MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OR MORE DATA ATTRIBUTES FROM THE GROUP COMPRISING FONT, PARAGRAPH, PAGE, DOCUMENT, USER NAME, USER LOCATION, DEVICE NAME, DATE, TIME, STYLE NAME, DATA TYPE, TEXT, FIELD, FILE NAME, CELL, COLOR, SIZE, SHAPE, ANGULAR ORIENTATION, INTENSITY, AND POSITION [GROUP I]
- THE GRAPHIC DATA CAN ALSO BE VARIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CONTROL SIGNAL FROM A USER INTERFACE ELEMENT FROM THE GROUP COMPRISING A CURSOR POSITION, A POINTING DEVICE, A KEY, A BUTTON, A SCREEN MENU, A SCREEN ICON, A MICROPHONE, A TOUCH SENSITIVE SCREEN, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF [GROUP II]

506A

DISPLAY THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA ON THE  
DISPLAY

- THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA HAS REDUCED LEGIBILITY
- IN ONE EMBODIMENT, THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA APPEARS GAUSSIAN BLURRED

10020335-121201

10020335.121201

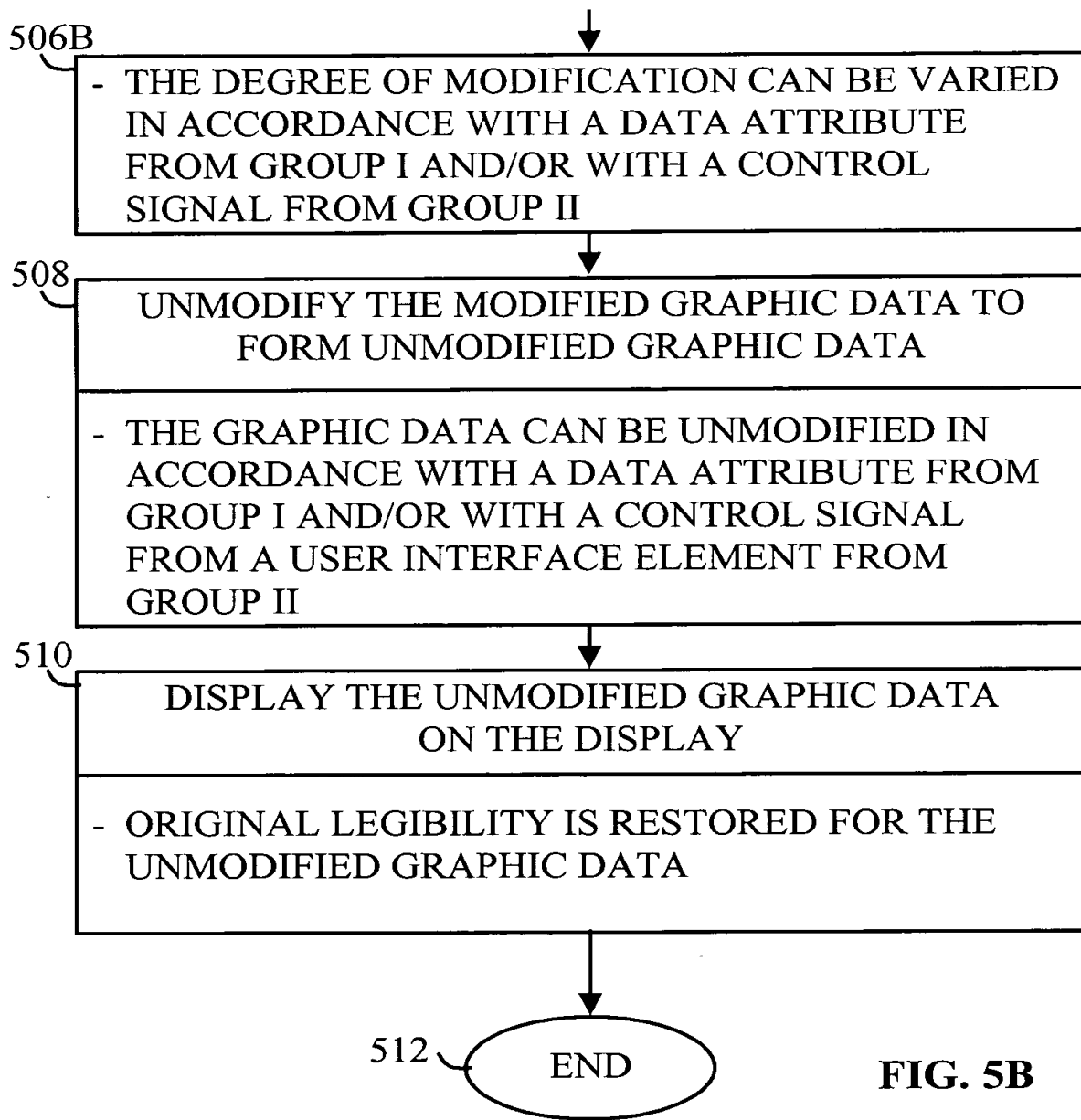


FIG. 5B